

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01

ACDA-19 GAC-01 SS-15 NSC-10 RSR-01 /119 W

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R 161229 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 158

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS PARIS 13469

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRN, FR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: GUENA COMMENT RE COUR DES COMPTES REPORT

REF: PARIS 13402

1. ACCORDING AFP, TRANSPORT MINISTER GUENA ALLUDED TO COUR DES COMPTES REPORT ON CONCORDE (REFTEL) IN REMARKS MADE YESTERDAY BEFORE MEETING OF AVIATION NAVIGATION ASSOCIATION. GUENA SAID WAS NORMAL THAT COUR DES COMPTES WOULD REPORT ON CONCORDE BUT CONTRARY TO WHAT SOME CONTENT ITS REPORT CONTAINS NO REVELATIONS AND CERTAINLY DOES NOT UNEARTH ANY SCANDALS. ALL FIGURES CONTAINED IN REPORT HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO SPECIALISTS AND TO PRESS FOR SOME TIME, HE SAID.

2. GUENA ADDED THAT FROM TECHNICAL STANDPOINT CONCORDE WAS FRANCO- BRITISH SUCCESS, AND " WILL BE ABLE TO TRANSPORT A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF PASSENGERS PARIS- NEW YORK AT TWICE THE SPEED OF SOUND AND AT FARES COMPETITIVE ON SEAT- MILE BASIS." AS FOR 14 BILLION FRANC COST OF CONCORDE PROGRAM, GUENA POINTED OUT THAT FRENCH SHARE WAS ONLY 7 BILLION FRANCS AND SAID THIS AMOUNT WAS HARDLY OVERWHELMING WHEN SPREAD OVER BUDGET FOR FOURTEEN YEARS 1962-1975. HE ADDED THAT U. S. HAD SPENT ALMOST AS MUCH WITHOUT FINALLY BUILDING A SUPERSONIC TRANSPORT.

IN CONCLUSION, GUENA CALLED FOR AN END TO DOMESTIC

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CRITICISM OF CONCORDE. PROBLEM NOW WAS TO SELL CONCORDE,
HE SAID, AND THE MORE FRENCH OPINION FOUND FAULT WITH
CONCORDE THE MORE DIFFICULT IT WOULD BE TO SELL THE
PLANE.
IRWIN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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